

I too would like to express my concern about the Indian tribe consultation of the environmental application process. It can be very frustrating. I do agree with the characterization that it amounts to extortion..."legalized extortion". If you have to deal with a half dozen to a dozen of Indian tribes or more just to get your tower registration it can become a quagmire. They have veto power over your application and can drag out the process.

It is the instruction that applicants communicate with the tribes and yet some tribes tell you they are a sovereign nation and do not want to talk to a private citizens. When you complain about this stalemate you are told to keep trying.

This is a big money maker for many Indian tribes and they know they can drag out your application process or veto it if you do not pay them money. They have a legalized "extortion club" over you.

What they charges is not consistent... One tribe may charge \$300 to \$500 dollars and another may charge \$800 to \$1000 dollars or more. What's incredible is it's all for the same small space of property that a tower is going to use on a piece of land that has in many cases been farmed. Each tribe is recognized as an individual nation and they can charge any amount of money they want and make any kind of demand. There does not seem to be protection for the U.S. Citizen who is at the mercy of this tribal money making mechanism.

Applicants are told by tribes that you simply pay the money and it will be immediately approved. What do they do for the money? Are they coming out physically to dig and inspect the land? No, not in many cases. However, some may require that you hire an archaeologist. This adds to the expense and bureaucratic red tape.

A private U.S. citizen can do what ever he wants with his land. He can farm, dig, bulldoze etc., etc. However, if John Doe comes and wants to put a tower on his property he has to go through paying out money and red tape to appease the many Indian tribes.

My 1st suggestion is this practice should be eliminated. Secondly, it should be reviewed, changed, and simplified. The fees should be removed or there should be one small fee if necessary to cover all of the tribes and one finding should impact them all. If this Indian tribal concern is necessary then there should be set up a single entity that an applicant has to deal with. If a fee is necessary it should be a single small reasonable fee.

There is much more to be said about this but presently it is a big headache and laborious. I know of one broadcaster who wanted to put up a tower who had so many tribes he had to deal with that he gave up and dropped his plans to do so.

I was told by one tribe representative with dollar signs in his eyes the much money that is made off of this process. The sad thing it is at the expense of the U.S. prospective broadcaster.

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